

## A Petrified Woman.

At Hunja, in the Punjab, a native who had recently married for a second time was importuned by his new wife to have the remains of wife No. 1 removed from their resting-place near a mineral spring and deposited in the village cemetery.

Preparations were made to that effect, laborers opening the grave in the usual manner. When the wickerwork basket in which the woman had been interred was reached, and efforts made to raise it, the weight of the receptacle and its contents was found to be too heavy for the four men engaged in the work and the appliances at hand. When the basket coffin was finally hoisted to the surface one of the laborers removed the lid to ascertain the cause of the unusual weight. To the surprise of all, it was found that the coffin contained a solid stone figure, the corpse having become perfectly petrified. The husband removed the remains to his home, where they now are, and it is said that thousands are daily viewing the wonder.

## Biting the Finger Nails.

It is simply a waste of time to apply ill-smelling and nasty-tasting substances to the finger-nails of children for the purpose of breaking up the habit of biting the nails. By some means or other they will disengageable stuff off and go on with the same process of gnawing.

A physician recommends a thorough course of manicuring. Let the child's nails be examined a dozen times a day if necessary, and see that there are no little points or irregularities to annoy the little one. Everybody knows that a hang-nail or a broken bit of nail will create a tendency to scrape the nail or to bite at it. Persistent and habitual biting of the nails is proclaimed a nervous disease, and constitutional treatment is in order in connection with the manicuring. It is a good idea to cultivate in children a good deal of pride in their appearance; this helps the treatment, and will, in a short time, break up the most fixed habits.

## Cold Churches.

Cold churches are often the cause of serious colds and catarrhs. While this fact should not keep persons from church, it ought to teach the sextons how to heat a large building properly. In the coldest weather, and especially when it is damp, the stone or brick walls of a large building become thoroughly chilled, and it takes the heat a long time to penetrate the whole building and counteract this chill.

Usually the fire for Sunday is begun late Friday night, or perhaps not until Saturday, and while the furnaces or heating apparatus may give forth an abundance of heat, still the warm air has not been in the building long enough to permeate every corner and take off the chill, and it is often noticeable that while the church seems to be warm, judging by the thermometer, there is a cold feeling in the air.

If fires in such large buildings were started early in the week, and kept up at a moderate rate for four or five days, very little fire on Sunday would keep the building at a pleasant habit.

## A New Metal.

Glucinium is one name of a new metal which seems to be destined to become of great importance in the very near future. On account of its peculiar qualities it will be used especially for electrical purposes. As its atomic weight is 9.1 and its specific gravity 2.60, its tractive power is considerably greater than that of iron and its conductivity is equal to that of silver. Glucinium, therefore, is more capable of resistance than iron and a better conductor than copper, and in addition to all that it is lighter than aluminum. If these claims for this new metal should be confirmed by practical use, there is no doubt that glucinium will be used extensively for electrical purposes, the more so as its commercial value will amount to about \$20 a pound, or 100 times less than the same volume and ten times less than the same weight of platinum.

## An Estimate of Horse Power.

The World's Fair of 1900 will require an expenditure of 12,000 horse-power for lighting, according to a paper to the Society of Civil Engineers of France by M. G. Dumont. At the Paris exhibition of 1889, only 1,500 horse-power was necessary. For showing machinery and apparatus in motion, 250 horse-power was used in 1875; 635 in 1877; 2,500 in 1878; 5,500 in 1889, and it is estimated that 8,000 will be needed in 1900. Electric power transmission will be employed. Assuming 70 per cent. total efficiency, the required horse-power of the steam engines is placed at 28,000, reduced to 20,000 by alternate use of power during the day for motors and at night for lighting. For the 180 days of the fair, an aggregate of 38,520,000 horse-power hours will be furnished, at an expense, it is calculated, of about \$1,380,000.

## Tea and Medicine.

Advertising seems nowadays to require as much training and finesse as the diplomatic service. The old time method of giving away crockery, framed pictures and literature with a pound of tea is now considered a crude and unconvincing way of inducing the attention of would-be purchasers. Now it has become the happy privilege of a tea merchant to retain on his staff the services of a medical practitioner and give to every customer a coupon entitling him or her to free advice and a bottle of medicine.

The medical profession, while realizing the resource and genius of this method of securing customers, has declared that the tea merchant is trespassing on its preserves, therefore has appealed to its own council to check this exhibition of inventive genius and order the tradesman to desist from mixing his tea with its medicine.

## Odds and Ends.

Miscellaneous Items—Union P. C. Black velvet, with white satin lining and white chiffon, is extremely stylish.

In preparing omelets for use the seeds are roasted like coffee, then ground or pounded.

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## BEAVERS AS MECHANICS.

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The best, most skillful, and adroit engineers and practical mechanics upon the face of the earth, next after man, are the beavers, whose intelligence in these directions is only equaled by their providence in laying up stores against the conventional "rainy day."

It is fairly proper to state that man conceived his first idea of water power from the operations of these kings of rodents. The latter were, of course, headed off by man in the invention of water wheels and other machinery and appliances for the utilization of the power thus obtained, but man selects a dam site for the same reason that the beaver does—viz.: That he may hold the water and get out of it all he can.

In other words, the beaver goes to the trouble of felling trees, cuts them into blocks of from two to four feet in length, bears them to the water, sinks them, plasters and packs them down in mud, and raises the wall above high water mark solely that it may hold and



BEAVERS AT WORK.

retain in all seasons a sufficient quantity to enable it to live comfortably and enjoy a daily bath without paying taxes for the same.

There never was an ancient setting hen that more pertinaciously clung to its nest after the eggs had been removed again and again than does the beaver to its work of building. Brutal and inconsiderate man may tear down and destroy the work of its hands, but with the coming of night and the departure of the enemy it will proceed to fell trees and to saw them into proper lengths for repair of damages with as cheerful a heart as the well-worked donkey turns homeward at dinner time. The beaver is not confined to North America only, but is also encountered in northern parts of Europe and Asia; yet has gained a firmer foothold on this continent, or else is more successful in eluding the pertinacious search of remorseless trappers. Unfortunately for the beaver, it gives forth an odoriferous substance which it carries in two sacs located near the base of its tail and is known in commerce as castoreum. This is a valuable perfume and offers additional inducement to zeal on the part of hunters who would scarcely need this incentive, because, as nobody has to be told, the beaver is itself very valuable. What, however, with the castoreum and the fur also in prospect, the hunter will swim streams and climb mountains, go through fire, and risk the tomahawk of the Indians in his search after them. While hunted and pursued, driven from pillar to post, still the beaver is fruitful, and, except in localities where man has overrun stream as well as land, is moderately plentiful.

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## Unusual Colors of Animals.

The coloring of animals seen in Maine this season is something unusual. There have been white moose, milk white fawns, gray wolves, and there has recently been captured a pale yellow fox.

"Er man doan' hafter be no eloquentist," said Uncle Eben, "in order to make 'Merry Christmas' sound good when he says it."—Washington Star.

Some women make the same display of disciplining their children that they make of their embroidered doilies.

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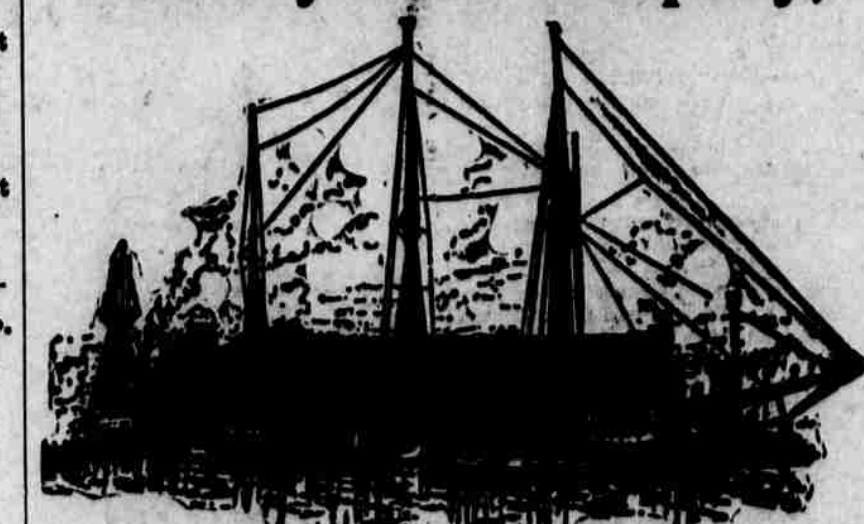
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